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DOWIEISM.

The people of Anderson county have always been willing to listen to the word of God as delivered by the Rev. Geo. O. Barnes, who has for some time been conducting services at the Court-house. There was a time when the coming of The Great Barnes was heralded throughout the county, and our citizens would flock to town to hear him deliver, in his master manner, the welcome message.

Upon one occasion, he drew immense crowds, made up of people from all walks of life—crippled, sick and blind—who believed that by anointing them, he could relieve their great sufferings. Again, he came to us, not anointing, but receiving confessions and blessing, and the people believed in him and followed him. Later, he visited us, but used neither the anointing nor the open confessions. Now he comes to us as a Dowieite, preaching the doctrine of John Alexander Dowie, of Zion City.

Few of our people understand the teachings of Dowie, and, being somewhat acquainted with them, we will attempt to briefly explain.

John Alexander Dowie, Messenger of the Convent and Spirit of Elijah, the Restorer, as he calls himself, was born fifty-five years ago in Edinburgh, of Scotch parents. Receiving his education, he became a minister of the gospel. After spending much time in his home country and Australia, he came to this country

ten years ago and settled in Chicago. He pitched his tent near the entrance to the World's Fair grounds, and, like Boardman, Simpson and Mrs. Mix, who he followed, attracted more than ordinary attention as a faith curer and healer. Dowie possessed more shrewdness than the average talker of his class that may be found talking nightly on State or Monroe streets in Chicago, and from "the hut," as his tent was called, he entered Music Hall, and finally the great Auditorium, with a seating capacity of thousands. With his knowledge of ministerial work, Dowie soon had many ministers with him, and later well organized bands of workers were going here and there receiving contributions and converts for him. Money was soon plentiful, and a large tabernacle was built. Real estate was purchased along Michigan avenue, regardless of price, and soon there was fitted up a large publishing house, that much printing matter could be published and spread broadcast over the land. Funds continued to come in, and finally a bank was opened, with John Alexander Dowie as President, Board of Directors and "the whole cheese." Stores were opened, and later hospitals for the sick. When the latter was started, Dowie's troubles started, for during one year he was arrested hundreds of times. He finally left Chicago and purchased 6,000 acres of the finest land in Illinois, only forty miles north of the city at a cost of more than a million and a half dollars. To buy this land, he

took the money from his flock, and is now generously selling it back to them in town lots at his own prices. Upon this land he has built what he calls Zion City. All of his stores, his bank, his lace factories and his hospitals have been moved there, and are personally conducted and looked after by John Alexander Dowie, "overseer" and sole owner. Every Dowieite, however employed, must give ten per cent. of his earnings toward the support of Dowie and Zion. The leader claims to have a following of more than one hundred thousand, and, this being true, it is easily seen how million dollar real estate purchases can be made. Unless these contributions are made, no prayers will be offered for the salvation of the member, or restoring of health. Much money is sent to Dowie by people out of the city, asking that he pray for them. When such a letter is received, Dowie goes to what he calls his clock praying machine and presses the button, and out drops a card which reads "You were prayed for at 2.35 P. M.," which is at once sent to the sender of the money. General prayers, which are calculated to restore health, are talked by him into a phonograph, and the records are then sold for a good price to his followers. Being greatly conceited, he has had made hundreds of pictures of himself, some of which are life-size, and he sells them for nice sums to his believers. Zion believes that Dowie is a Prophet, but Chicago and the West believe that he is the greatest "fakir" that ever came before

the American people. In the West his appearance or that of one of his followers in public is the signal for riot and disorder. At Evanston, Ill., Hammond, Ind., Mansfield, Ohio, and hundreds of other places, they have been run out of town with eggs and decayed fruits.

We dislike to devote so much of our space to such a matter, but believe that what we have said, and know to be true, will give you some idea of Dowieism, of which Bro. Barnes claims to be a convert.

It Looked Like a Shame to Burn It.

Last week, our genial friend, Postmaster Geo. W. Hutcheson, received from an acquaintance a box of very fine cigars, together with a letter explaining that they cost one dollar each. After thinking over his friends who might brave an attack of gout, caused by such high life, he decided to experiment on the editor of IT, and brought over one beautifully decorated. It did look good to us, and, though the editor's first intention was to keep it, the temptation was too strong, and the match was applied, and the smoke that issued from the garret of his anatomy reminded one of a double-header pulling the Witherspoon grade. Our only regret now is that there was not a policy on it for the full value, that we might once more enjoy such a luxury.

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should attract the attention of every citizen of Anderson county. We have just purchased our SPRING STOCK, and, as it will soon be here, we must make room for it. If you want anything in our line, now is your time to buy. Give us a call.

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